TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2002 LB 1310

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...make some cuts too that aren't going to be popular with individuals in here if we start going to programs, and maybe that's what will have to start coming out if we fall. But, at this point, we have to find some sources, if you don't like this issue. And, back to the word only, I think I, as I said, I opposed it before. I'm going to continue to oppose a change in this area because it does provide guidance for that fund and its administration, and if we open that word up, "only", at this point, it simply gives them more leeway, which I don't necessarily think we want to give a...an agency to have.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I still lean towards supporting what Senator Chambers wants to do. It takes a little of the hypocrisy out of the issue. And I must confess I have legislation that I want to pass yet this year that would involve a water quantity task force, I think an issue very important to the state of Nebraska. I think it's very timely that we do that, and I'm seeking a little bit of money from the LUST Fund for that financing. Let me be clear about one thing, though. This \$30 million that we have in the leaking underground storage tank, we have just completed phase one and we're going into phase two. Phase two is going to be much more expensive than phase one. It's going to take more money, folks. That other \$24 million is needed and we're going to have to continue the tax at the rate we've got now. I don't have those figures and numbers in front of me, but the committee has gone over that with DEQ several times. If their projections are correct and we take this \$6 million and then if you want to lower the tax or use a lot of this money for some other purposes, there won't be enough money in there. So, with that, I...I'm...and I don' think DEQ, even though we changed the word from "only" to may, I don't think DEQ is going to channel revenue from that fund to other DEQ purposes. It would be my hope that they wouldn't and I think the Natural Resources Committee would be somewhat of a watchdog on that issue. I do want to say one thing this morning. I always have to get a plug in on ethanol. If the petroleum marketers in this state would have got on board and been using ethanol instead of MTBE and other additives in their gasoline, our leaky underground storage